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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1912.

FOR THE PEOPLE'S VETO.

If the General Assembly of Virginia had had as much regard for the weight of constitutional authority before voting upon the bill to submit in 1912 the constitutional amendment giving unlimited tenure to city treasurers and commissioners as did Governor Mann in returning to that body that measure without action on his part, the matter would never have been laid before the Governor at all, because it would never have received legislative sanction.

It is just to Governor Mann to say that his decision is in accord with the weight of authority upon the question of his power to veto a bill to submit a constitutional amendment. The cases which vest the veto power as to such proposals in the Executive are in the minority. The Governor's legal adviser cites a decision of the United States Supreme Court, a Pennsylvania decision declaring that the process of amending the Constitution is not lawmaking in its strict sense, a Maryland decision asserting that only the Legislature can propose an amendment and that the Governor has nothing to do with it.

In some States, it is to be observed, the practice of submitting such proposals to the Governor continues, as Jameson points out in his work, "Constitutional Conventions." Arkansas is a jurisdiction following this procedure. So are Louisiana and California.

Governor Mann's decision is upheld by the Supreme Courts of Michigan, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Maryland. The Governor makes the striking point that if he had the right to veto it would require a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly to amend, although the Constitution requires but a majority.

In the matter before him Governor Mann did two things which the General Assembly distinctly did not do: (1) Considered the question carefully and in its legal and constitutional aspects; (2) followed the weight of constitutional authority. For doing these things he is as much to be praised as the General Assembly is to be censured, despite the fact that he only did his plain duty. If the Legislature had given the question as searching and complete consideration as the Governor, it would not have given its sanction to a proposal which, according to the weight of constitutional authority, is invalid and unconstitutional.

The question is not yet settled. There is a higher power than the Legislature, the people, in whom is vested the final veto power in the decision of this matter. The battle is not half begun. The people, who once already have denied city treasurers and commissioners the right to succeed themselves indefinitely, will hardly reverse themselves. The officeholders' trust carried the General Assembly, but cannot carry the people. There are still left voters in Virginia like those who protest in letters to us, as does a Dinwiddie man: "Keep up the good work. You are entirely right." Like that of one in Wythe, who says: "Allow me to congratulate you on the outpost stand you have taken. I assure you that you have many a silent patriot by your side." Like an indignant Southwest Virginian, who says: "The Times-Dispatch has stepped to the front and fearlessly and properly defended our constitutional rights and exposed the acts and methods of usurpation of the powers vested in it in its attempt to override the wishes of the people and defy the Constitution. It is time for every citizen to enter his protest." It is a question which the "silent patriots" must decide, but in their decision they will be guided by the fullest publicity as to the dubious way in which the General Assembly, at the behest of a band of officeholders more powerful than the people, rode roughshod over the Constitution.

A POCKET PEACE ARGUMENT.

Woodrow Wilson, in an address before the Universal Peace Union, declared: "A great deal of the peace movement appears to be due to sentiment. Patriotism expresses itself in sentiment, but fundamentally it is what a man will sacrifice for public sentiment."

The following figures give some idea of the sacrifice in money that this country makes for what may be called jingo patriotism. It is a pocket argument as strong as any sentiment in favor of a less clumsy and expensive means of maintaining peace.

According to the tables prepared by Assistant Secretary of War Oliver, over \$1,628,000,000 was spent for the military establishment between May 1, 1898, the date of the battle of Manila Bay, and July 1, 1911. This is half the entire national debt at the close of the Civil War. During the four years ending July 1, 1911, the total expenditures of the War Department were over \$558,000,000. During the four years from 1892 to 1896 the expenditures were only \$206,000,000. The total enlisted strength of the army to-day

is limited to 100,000; in 1896 it was only 25,000.

During the same thirteen-year period the Navy Department spent over \$1,260,000,000. Both branches of the service during these years have cost the country over \$2,750,000,000. If the present year's expenditures are added, the total cost since the beginning of the war with Spain will aggregate a sum almost equal to the national debt at the close of the Civil War.

In the face of these staggering, incomprehensible figures, we may well ask is this the most modern and enlightened way of preserving international amity. Would it not be wise to mingle patriotic sentiment with patriotic common sense? Suppose half of this sum had been spent upon internal peace and everyday comfort?

CAN OUR FARMERS AFFORD IT?

If the General Assembly abolishes the United Agricultural Board, the General Education Board will not give the farmers of Virginia the \$17,000 which it promised them this year. By appropriating \$10,000, the State can get \$17,000, with many untold advantages to boot, if it lets the United Agricultural Board remain in existence. The loss to Virginia agricultural interests if this work were put under the State Department of Agriculture would be \$17,000, and really a great deal more in the way of benefit. That's enough reason for putting the Rinehart bill in the furnace.

UNWISE INTERFERENCE.

No sufficient reason; in fact, no reason at all, has been advanced for the passage of the bill introduced by Delegate Cox, by request, which would allow an appeal from the decisions of the Building Inspector in Richmond, in cases involving the condemnation of buildings. In the work of that office during the four years of its existence, there has been no successful effort to reverse a decision of the Building Inspector with reference to any structure condemned by him, although appeals of this nature have been heard by the Board of Public Safety, composed of the Mayor, the City Engineer and the Chief of the Fire Department. To that tribunal there has never been shown adequate reason for upsetting any judgment of the Building Inspector. In the face of that fact, this attempt is made to secure appeals to the Hustings Court, when already a proper mode of appeal is provided.

If the pending bill were to become a law there would be well nigh interminable delay in securing the removal of dangerous and unsafe buildings. This wait would be especially hazardous in the case of walls rendered unsafe by fire. The Building Inspector would condemn, but the owner might take an appeal to the Hustings Court, and for a month or so the walls might stand an ever present menace to the safety of property and to the lives of citizens. As the law now stands, a dangerous building or dangerous wall can be removed immediately in cases of emergency. They must be razed in five hours.

The building code of Richmond has been wisely administered for the good of the city and the welfare of its citizens. There have been no arbitrary or improperly censorious rulings. In at least one case under the present system such delay was suffered that it proved the danger of long delay by appeal, the structure in this dilapidated case having fallen in before the case was adjudicated. Those back of the pending bill bear the burden of proof—they must show wherein the present law has worked injustice or hardship. No one has risen to charge the Board of Public Safety with prejudice, partiality or unfairness; no one has established reversible error in the judgment of Building Inspector Heck, who has administered the building code without fear or favor since it became law. In the absence of any substantial showing that hardship has been worked, the pending bill should be killed.

MR. JUSTICE PITNEY.

No President save Washington, who appointed the whole of the first Supreme Court and several subsequent members, ever appointed so many members to that bench as President Taft. It is a most singular coincidence that upon the only ex-judge to become Chief Magistrate of the nation should fall for the first time since the foundation of the republic the unprecedented responsibility of choosing a majority of the court and of naming a Chief Justice and five Associate Justices. In a time of crisis and unrest like this it was well that a judicial mind should select more than half of the members of the highest tribunal of the nation. Of Mr. Taft's five appointees to associate Justiceships, only one was a national figure—Mr. Justice Hughes. Mr. Justice Lurton was fairly well known in the South, but Justices Lamar and Van Devanter were almost unknown to the country at large, while the latest appointee, Mr. Justice Pitney, yesterday nominated by the President, is equally unknown.

A New Jerseyman, and a Princeton man, Mr. Justice Pitney has been a lawyer and a jurist for three decades. He served four years in Congress and two in the Senate of New Jersey, of which he was president. From 1891 to 1898 he was associate Justice of the Supreme Court of his State, and for four years has been chancellor. He is a Republican, but received yesterday high praise from Governor Woodrow Wilson. He is a little more than fifty-four years of age. He will represent a well defined type of judicial thought on the Supreme Court: the chancery decisions of New Jersey are widely followed in the country and stand out sharply as leading. The best thing that can be said so far about the new justice is that this vacancy which he fills has been kept open longer than any

other by the President, and many able and well-known lawyers and judges have been considered, only to be finally rejected.

WIDER TIRES, BETTER ROADS.

A practical achievement for improved highways in Virginia will be effected if the Harman wide tire bill becomes law. It was reported yesterday to the Senate, and applies in the main to wagons, drays and cars. It will go into effect in 1923, and is, therefore, plainly not confiscatory in its working. The requirements as to width are reasonable, and will impose hardship on nobody and on no class. This bill should pass, because its adoption will mean to a great degree the passing of the ruts that make Virginia roads infamous. Good roads are impaired by narrow tires, but the narrow wheel surface does more to make bad roads worse than anything else in the world except rain. Wide tires will really be good road-building machines, and they will pack and spread the damp and soft earth and make a smoother, more level, more durable surface. The enactment of this bill into law will be a long step in the direction of improved highways, and the absolute necessity for good roads is admitted by all intelligent and progressive people. The wider the tire, the better the road.

COLOMBIA'S REVENGE.

Secretary Knox is not the only man who has found that prominence often means humiliation. When the Panama revolution was being fomented, no one thought that the despised and pitiful little state of Colombia would ever be able to secure a public hearing for its grievances against those bold plunderers who seized the Canal Zone, ten miles wide, stretching from ocean to ocean, under the guise of political reformation.

But now Secretary Knox has all unwittingly put the United States in the position where a South American minister, whose name was doubtless unknown to nine-tenths of the diplomatic corps in Washington, has been able to administer a slap to the United States that will be heard in every court in Europe.

This could not have happened if the full light had been turned on the inquiry demanded by Colombia into the conditions and circumstances surrounding the Panama revolution.

Colonel Roosevelt was violent in his abuse of the late Joseph Pulitzer and Delavan Smith, because they doubted the good faith of the United States government in general, and Mr. Roosevelt in particular, in the matter of acquiring the Canal Zone.

Colonel Roosevelt is no longer President, but one of his acts at least has risen up to plague the man whom he made President, and will continue to annoy President Taft and his successors until justice is done, or until it is shown that the United States was not directly or indirectly responsible for the assault upon the integrity of Colombia's territory.

Cecil Rhodes's dream of a Cape to Cairo railway has, according to latest reports on the work, already been realized for 2,321 miles north from Cape Town. A few months back the extension northward had reached Broken Hill, 122 miles south of the Congo border, in Rhodesia. Now there is regular service on the line, including dining cars, to Elizabeth, 167 miles north of the Congo frontier. Meanwhile, builders are steadily constructing a southern stretch down from the Nile country as a connecting link with the northern advance. Meanwhile again, the great African promoter's "all this for England," which he covered with his hand on the map of South Africa, has also become an accomplished fact.

If one of those photographs could be secreted in the room where Colonel Roosevelt soliloquizes perhaps we would have more than this audible silence to prove he is preparing to explode a dynamite bomb.

Spring would come in more lovely fashion to many a bird mother if in some strange, wild way she could know that her new brood was to be safe against slaughter by idle marauders, who seek not sport but pot-money. She, too, is raising feathered citizens of the common good to serve in protecting wheat land and garden and orchard against extravagant nature's insect life.

The new Chinese republic would do well to steal Dr. Harvey Wiley for a while to invent a pure food and drugs stamp for some of the things they eat.

Surely the quality of mercy is not strained if, with an income of less than \$9,000, these latest sisters of charity, the Visiting Nurses, can bring the comfort of 25,000 visits to the poor and needy sick.

VERSE FOR TO-DAY.

Which? If she be true as she is sweet,
The most things on earth must
grieve.
That they should take a humble seat
Because they do more oft deceive.
If she be false as she is fair,
The falsest things on earth, I know,
Must sigh to see that everywhere
She can more gross deception show.
—MCHENRY LEWIS.

WASHINGTON

By Roy K. Moulton

A Greenhorn in Washington.
Washington, February 18.

Dear Editor:

Nobody seems to be in a hurry in Washington. There is the Senate restaurant, for instance. There is a legend to the effect that one of the waiters took an order there once from a Senator, and at nine years in jail. He returned to the restaurant at the expiration of his term, got his old job back, served to order to the Senator, and was given an extra tip for his promptitude. There was another Senator who went there for dinner one noon and by the time he got back to the Senate chamber his term of office had expired and the Legislature had sent a new man to take his place. It is suspected that the noted Charlie Ross, who disappeared some forty years ago, is somewhere in the Senate restaurant waiting for an order to be served.

They take things easily in Washington, even your money. They begin to think of getting down to business in the morning about 1 o'clock in the afternoon and at 3 o'clock they begin to think about going home. Some of the stores are not open more than fifteen minutes a day, and some of the restaurants remain open so briefly that they will serve only short order cooking.

Even the elevators are slow. By the time I get up to the third floor after lunch it is time to start down again to dinner. The elevator boy tells me he has made seven round trips during his life and hopes to equal the record of his father, who made thirteen round trips, but his father lived to be a very old man.

It isn't easy to get in to see the President. One is obliged to submit to the scrutiny of two policemen at the sidewalk in front of the executive offices. Then there are two policemen at the door and four or five secretaries and clerks to get by. The two policemen at the door look for bulging pockets and packages. It doesn't pay to try and see the President when you have a package.

Also, never carry the plug of tobacco in the right hip pocket, for any protruberance in that locality will keep you at a safe distance from the executive offices. Understand, excepting with the eyes, and it pays to have the outlines of your manly form show clearly. Don't walk in with your hands in your pockets. There is the only place in Washington where it is not desired that you should put your hands in your pockets. At all other places in Washington you are expected to put your hands in your pockets about every three minutes.

I have had the good fortune to be able to purchase at a very small consideration of \$4.175 the identical bullet which killed General McPherson. I know it is the identical bullet, for the man in the next room to me has one, and mine is exactly like his.

I have also purchased a celluloid collar once worn by Washington. After I purchased it I happened to think that celluloid collars were not invented until about fifteen years ago, and went to the colored man I purchased it from to get my money back, claiming that he had sold me the celluloid collar under false pretenses. He said that he had told the truth and that the collar had been worn by Washington—Booker Washington.

I have just been through the Corcoran Art gallery, but perhaps the least said about that the better. It is no place for the deacon of a church, and I will touch it subject but lightly. All the old girls are there—Venus Psyche and all the rest—and they ought to be ashamed of themselves. It is a good thing for them that the winters here are not so severe and the building is heated by steam. I will begin to read more about the Corcoran Art Gallery privately when I see you.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Chemical.

Please give the formula which druggists use to make their label paste. Does it deteriorate if left unstoppered? Will it be injured by addition of perfume?

Mix one ounce of borie acid with one ounce of water, and stir in one half-gallon of water to thin paste, heat, stirring constantly, until the water begins to jump. It evaporates about as fast as water. No.

United States Army.

How may I find out about the pay and service in the United States Army?

Write the Secretary of War, Washington, D. C. The service in the United States Army and Navy does not seem just now to be excessively popular, and the "openings" may be more attractive to you on that account.

Oil on Water.

Is it true that Franklin "discovered" the fact that oil will calm the sea?

Quite a number of "books" so designated, and "discovery" seems to have been of common property in Pliny's day.

ABE MARTIN

The style columns of the papers know that spring is here long before the young frogs or the pussy-willows.

Colombia has impressed upon Secretary Knox and the State Department the real meaning of the diplomatic term, persona non grata.

Nowhere are there such sweet and melodious names as in Virginia. Just picture Miss Merilla Cherry Musick, who, according to the Lynchburg News, has gone to South Carolina, the native birth of the Turnspeds and the Littleberries!

Miss Fawn Lippincott, special officer of the Civic Pride Club, reports a few Christmas wreaths still in service. Tell Binkley went to Washington with his petition today to see his Congressman and call on the Postmaster-General and the President. He says his visit has no political significance.

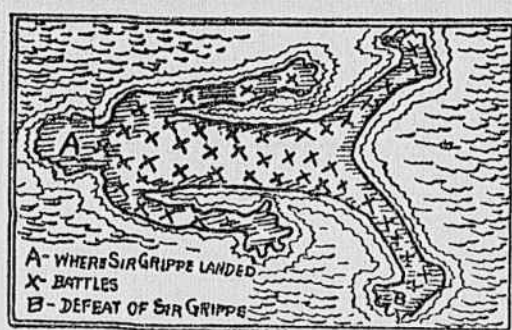
THE TERRIBLE WAR BETWEEN SIR DOC AND SIR GRIPPE.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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For many years a certain small island had enjoyed peace and immunity from hostile invasion. Microbes and other undesirable immigrants were refused landing facilities and the wars that swept over other neighboring islands very considerably kept away from the peaceful shores of this certain small island. In consequence of these years of immunity, the island became somewhat careless. The night watch slept at his post, the standing army sat around playing poker, the sentinels seldom stood guard and the fortifications were absolutely deserted. Discipline was at a low ebb. "What's the use of spending money on defenses?" quoth the general. "Nobody intends to invade us."

Now, it so happened that there was a certain wicked



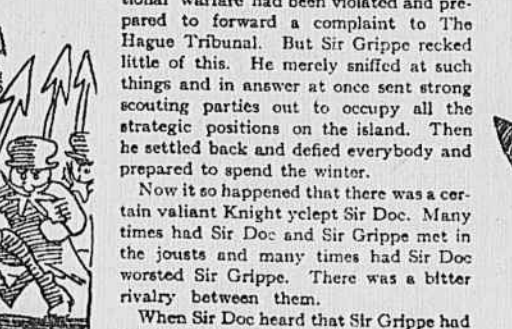
MAP OF ISLAND, SHOWING BATTLEFIELDS.



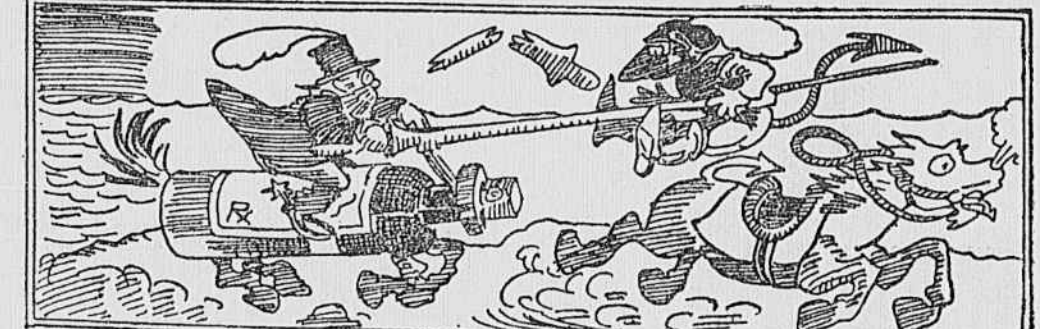
SIR GRIPPE LANDING.

the roar and din of combat raged up and down the island. Microbes by the million were slain and still Sir Gripper held the main points of vantage. "Gadsooks!" quoth Sir Doc, as he opened fire with some of his 18-inch pills. "I'll have 'em some more!"

Finally, Sir Gripper began to retreat, fighting battles at strategic



SIR DOC OPENED FIRE WITH 18-INCH PILLS.



SIR DOC SMOTE SIR GRIPPE A MIGHTY BUFFET.

neighborly islands very considerably kept away from the peaceful shores of this certain small island. In consequence of these years of immunity, the island became somewhat careless. The night watch slept at his post, the standing army sat around playing poker, the sentinels seldom stood guard and the fortifications were absolutely deserted. Discipline was at a low ebb. "What's the use of spending money on defenses?" quoth the general. "Nobody intends to invade us."

Now, it so happened that there was a certain wicked

national warfare had been violated and prepared to forward a complaint to The Hague Tribunal. But Sir Gripper recked little of this. He merely snuffed at such things and in answer at once sent strong scouting parties out to occupy all the strategic positions on the island. Then he settled back and defied everybody and prepared to spend the winter.

Now it so happened that there was a certain valiant Knight yeft Sir Doc. Many times had Sir Doc and Sir Gripper met in the jousts and many times had Sir Doc worsted Sir Gripper. There was a bitter rivalry between them.

When Sir Doc heard that Sir Gripper had landed on the island he smote his hip and quoth "I'll have ado with Sir Gripper." Instantly a fierce battle began, and for days

and un-strategic points until things looked pretty blue for him.

"That Knight Sir Doc has given me a pretty buffet," quoth he, gnashing his teeth, "and I think I will beat it from the island." So saying, Sir Gripper fought one desperate combat at a battlefield marked B on the map and then departed for some other island. Look out for him!

Voice of the People

The Game Laws.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I read in Monday's issue of your paper with satisfaction the letter from Farmville, over the signature of W. P. R. It is quite the best solution of the question of game protection I have read so far. It points out the injustices against the man who loves to shoot, and also offers valuable suggestions as to the way of game propagation and protection. I hope our representatives in the Legislature may see fit to act on some of these suggestions. It does seem that sportsmen should be respected to the extent of the Commonwealth showing a willingness to trust them a little, and that hunting seasons into one for fear we will shoot turkey and quail in June and September. Men who are inclined to do these things will do so anyhow, law or no law. If we are allowed to shoot squirrels in June, we are not going out to kill the turkey hens and bring some of the brood in the winter. The law is a law of henry, as some make believe. The months of June and September are proper times for open season, and the young are well grown at these times. It would also be much better to have our turkey season open October 15 to clear fifteen days earlier. The would really mean only fifteen days for turkey hunting, for the majority of hunters do not care for turkey quail and rabbits. Robin shooting does not amount to much for sport, but I hope we may have the month of March for open season, and the bulbul law repealed altogether. As pointed out by W. P. R., both these birds—the robin and bulbul—are migratory, and the insect destruction by them does not amount to a great deal. An arrangement of the game law according to the above suggestions would give us a little chance for an outing at shorter intervals, and not have the whole business jammed into one short season.

As to the Monro-Rutherford bill, I see but one objection, and that is the ones it is aimed at are not affected, viz., those who hunt now and do not pay any taxes of any kind will still hunt and pay no tax. The ones who are already heavily taxed will pay the bill. As an illustration of the point, it is now lawful to pay taxes on all dogs, but I am convinced that the ones who have the most dogs, hunt the most, and allow their dogs to destroy the most game, pay the least or no taxes at all. This is a law of long standing, and is not enforced. Then how are these same people to be made to pay a hunting license?

However, if the money is to be used as suggested by W. P. R., to furnish farmers steel traps for catching hawks, owls, foxes, etc., and for paying a premium for their skins, also furnishing feed for birds in winter, I am willing to pay the extra tax. As to the economic value of birds as insect-destroyers, there are some things in connection with the theories of our eminent scientists that do not pan out. Do not the Northern States boast of their game laws and conservation of birds, where the robin and bulbul, with their voracious appetites for the insect breed, have had full sway for a long time, and are not just at all yet pay tell me where is it that obnoxious insects are much worse? I have never been on a hunting trip in the North, but I know that insects of various kinds are so bad that they kill cattle in the field, and my hunting comrades have told me that while up there one had to go gloved and veiled to keep from being eaten up, also to carry along a good sized brush to

clear up the way occasionally so as to be able to see where you were going. But, of course, it is wrong to suppose that anything like this will happen down in "Dear Old Virginia," though the sportsmen are about to kill everything. At any rate, we want to see all the things that the sportsmen have figured are worth their weight in gold. Our farmers are down to date, the peer of anybody, certainly not to be outwitted by sportsmen, and the golden birds will be richly cared for.

I am glad to note the movement in regard to the poisoned water of the James. How about removing the used dams in the Rivanna and putting in fish ladders over the others, as provided by law? Fish are scarcer than quail, but then they can't catch squelches.

Charlottesville. SPORTSMAN.

A Soldier War Secretary.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—One would infer from the morning news columns that "grim-visaged war" has shown its wrinkled front" between the Secretary of War and the adjutant-general of the army, and now teeth, angry warnings of calamity, while the alligators of the Florida Everglades are shedding tears of joy over the row in the Agricultural Department. Shades of our departed heroes, defend us from the impending calamities!

Call quickly in The Hague Peace Committee ere the Mexican insurgents invade Texas with an endeavor to restore this vast Empire State to the government, from whom it was so gloriously (?) appropriated in the early forties of the past century. But thrusting aside all levity, it does

seem strange and malapropos to appoint other than a military man as Secretary of War and a naval officer as Secretary of the Navy.

In the curriculum of the highly educated citizen the art of war and nautical demonstrations are unknown quantities. What is a modern government with men ignorant of the duties of such departments?

It is to be hoped that the next President, whoever he may be, will appoint to his Cabinet men who will not bring reproach to the army and navy by gratuitous wrangling. P. F. B. Blue Ridge Springs, Feb. 16, 1912.

Says Taft's an Antichrist.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—A few days ago there was something said about a preacher—that he was a modern preacher, I respect—what does he preach? Is he different from the apostles of Christ? The United States is said to be a Christian government. How can that be when we have an antichrist for the President? Verdon.

Make Vets Comfortable.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—The comforts and discomforts of Confederate soldiers have been discussed and discussed until most all of these old veterans are gone. How would it do to close public schools and stop work on public roads until Virginia can get sufficient funds from the Treasury to make these men comfortable? It might be well for some man in the Senate or House to offer such a bill. T. M. DILLARD. Blackstone.

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Richmond, Virginia

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